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April 3, 1984

## Seismology

1975 Plate Tectonics: Quantitative Analysis Techniques for Seismicity and Earthquake Hazard Assessment. Edited by R. S. Stein and T. A. R. R. Stein. Princeton University Press, 1975. Pp. 1100. \$100.00.

Several methods for the analysis of recently acquired seismicity data are compared, including empirical methods and statistical methods. Both of which are capable of solving various seismic problems. The concept of the seismicity rate is introduced, and the implications for use in modeling reference spectra are presented. It is shown that the mean optical path length in a particular surface is a rough measure of seismicity rate. The concept of the seismicity rate is introduced, and the implications for use in modeling reference spectra are presented. It is shown that the mean optical path length in a particular surface is a rough measure of seismicity rate. The concept of the seismicity rate is introduced, and the implications for use in modeling reference spectra are presented. It is shown that the mean optical path length in a particular surface is a rough measure of seismicity rate.

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## Social Sciences

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## Tectonophysics

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# News

## Venus Volcanism and El Chichón

Reinterpretations of telemetry data returned to earth from the Pioneer Venus Orbiter suggest that the surface of Venus may be characterized by violent massive volcanic activity. L. W. Esposito has made an interactive analysis of Pioneer ultraviolet spectral data and similar data from the earth's atmosphere [Science, 223, 1072-1074, 1984]. Spacecraft analysis of sulfur dioxide in the earth's upper atmosphere, apparently released by El Chichón, Mexico, in March 1982 (EOS, June 14, 1983, p. 411, and August 16, 1983, p. 506) prompted reanalysis of accumulated Pioneer ultraviolet data. Massive injections of sulfur dioxide into the Venus atmosphere could be the result of volcanic eruptions about the size of the Krakatau explosive eruption that took place between Java and Sumatra in 1883.

Other data from the instruments of Pioneer Venus Orbiter and from two Russian spacecrafts now in Venus orbit seem to confirm that volcanism is major features [New Scientist, Feb. 23, 1984]. H. Masursky of the U.S. Geological Survey and F. Scarf of TRW, Inc. concluded that Venus must have been experiencing great volcanic eruptions on a different basis. Masursky has employed Pioneer radar imaging and altimetry to define and map what appear to be massive volcanoes at Beta Regio and Alta Regio. Gravity anomalies determined by tracking spacecraft motion are similar to those associated with volcanoes on earth.

Scarf's data are deduced from studies of lightning clusters observed in the Beta Regio and Alta Regio areas. It could be argued that lightning can be produced from other sources, but Scarf suggests that it results from volcanic eruption plumes into the Venus atmosphere. His measurements are of plasma wave emissions.

The analogy with the earth comes from the sulfur dioxide that could be both a by-product of volcanic eruption. There is a good chance that both planets suffer from acid rain as a result. Esposito's analysis of the data could be correct, but the volcanic interpretation could be invalid. Sulfur dioxide injections into the Venus atmosphere could be due to other phenomena. —PMB

## VLBA: Earth Science and Astrophysics

New methods to extend current knowledge in plate tectonics and in astronomy will result from applications of the Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) project planned for continental scale (EOS, March 6, 1984, p. 84). The powerful radio telescopes will be positioned as elements of the array extending from Puerto Rico to Alaska. According to a report of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Board on Physics and Astronomy, the antenna array will help investigators to "grapple with the mysteries of quasars and galactic nuclei... and... will also prove useful in answering down-to-earth questions, including the 'whys' and 'hows' of earthquakes."

The project, as listed in the Reagan Administration's current budget, will cost \$50 million. Partial operation of the array could begin as early as 1987.

For astronomers, the VLBA will provide high precision, accurately synchronized signals. The increased high angular resolution of signals from astrophysical radio sources will result in being able to focus on distant celestial objects, some for the first time. The improved accuracy will be seen in measurements of velocities and distances. It may be possible to explore the radio sources themselves in detail.

Geophysical studies will utilize the VLBA to make modern observations on plate motions. The accuracy is supposed to be on the order of a scale of centimeters per million kilometers. Instead of basing plate motion theory on "paleomagnetic data and other information... averaged over the past several million years of geologic time..." as the report states, it will be possible with the VLBA to measure movements of the earth's crust in real time. The VLBA measurements of plate motion will also benefit geophysical interpretations of the earth's mass distribution, composition, and structure.

The NAS report focuses on the beneficial factors of federal government support of astronomy projects. Private institutions cannot support these projects, but the government can and evidently is happy to do so. George Keyworth, the president's science advisor, addressed a NAS workshop that created the report. He noted that the VLBA project is an example of a productive scientific effort of the kind the Reagan Administration supports. —PMB

## AGU Awardees and Medalists

The recipients of the 1984 Bowie, Ewing, and Horton medals and of the Macelwane awards have been announced by AGU. These distinctive honors recognize AGU members who make significant contributions to geophysics.

The William Bowie Medal is awarded to Marcel Nicolet, of the Free University of Brussels, for outstanding contributions in fundamental geophysics and for unselfish cooperation in research.

The Maurice Ewing Medal will be presented to Xavier Le Pichon, of the Geodynamics Laboratory at the University of Paris, for significant contributions to the understanding of physical, geophysical, and geological processes in the ocean, and/or for significant, original contributions to scientific ocean engineering, technology, and instrumentation; and/or for outstanding service to marine sciences. The medal is presented jointly by the U.S. Navy and AGU.

The Robert E. Horton Medal is awarded to Charles V. Theis, who retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, for outstanding contributions to the geophysical aspects of hydrology. This medal is given in even-numbered years.

The James B. Macelwane Award is given in recognition of significant contributions to the geophysical sciences by a young scientist of outstanding ability. The recipient must be less than 34 years old. A maximum of three awards may be made each year. This year's recipients are Mary K. Hudson, of the Space Sciences Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley; Raymond Jeanes, also at the University of California, Berkeley; and John

H. Woodhouse, associate professor of geophysics at Harvard University's Geological Sciences Department.

All of the awards will be presented at ceremonies during the 1984 Spring Meeting next month in Cincinnati. All Spring Meeting participants are invited to attend both the ceremony, on Wednesday, May 16, at 6 P.M. at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel, and the reception following it. —BTR

## Fulbright Awards

Competition begins this month for the approximately 750 Fulbright Scholar Awards available for 1985-1986. Roughly 275 awards are for postdoctoral research in more than 100 countries; the remainder are for college and university lecturing abroad or for consultative or teaching positions with governmental bodies or other professional institutions.

The application deadline for awards with placement in Australasia, India, Latin America, and the Caribbean is June 15, 1984; September 15 is the deadline for awards available in Africa, Asia (except India), Europe, and the Middle East.

For additional information, write to the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 11 Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20036. The Fulbright program is funded and administered by the U.S. Information Agency.

## AGU Elects 16 Fellows

Sixteen distinguished scientists have been elected Fellows of AGU. The total number of Fellows elected each year does not exceed

0.1% of the total membership at the time of election.

The newly elected Fellows are Samuel J. Bame, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Sabir K. Banerjee, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Charles A. Barth, director, Laboratory for Atmospheric Space Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder; Myrl E. Breh, Department of Geology, Western Washington University; Christopher H. Chapman, Department of Physics, University of Toronto; Charles C. Connelley III, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Russ E. Davis, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego; Jean Francheteau, University of Paris.

G. Ross Heath, Dean and Professor of Geological Oceanography, Oregon State University; Lester Machia, Director, Air Resources Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Sidney P. Newcom, Department of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson; Donald R. Nielsen, Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources, University of California, Davis; Byron D. Tapley, Director, Center for Space Research, University of Texas, Austin; Hugh P. Taylor, Jr., Department of Geology, California Institute of Technology; John T. Wasson, Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles; and Donald E. White, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park.

The new Fellows will be honored at ceremonies during the 1984 Spring Meeting next month in Cincinnati. All Spring Meeting participants are invited to attend both the ceremony, on Wednesday, May 16, at 6 P.M. at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel, and the reception following it. —BTR

# AGU

## Committees Review Activities at December Meetings

## Education and Human Resources Committee

The Education and Human Resources Committee reported having approved participation in the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) national survey. During the summer of 1983 the AWG designed a 75-question survey targeted to women but also applicable to men. The survey consisted of five sections (in addition to such demographic as age, salary, education, job area, and society membership): feelings and attitude toward job, career/family balance, sexual harassment and discrimination, opinions on national energy and conservation policy, and attitude toward AWG. The questionnaire was mailed to AWG members (just over 1000) and to AGU female members (about 1300). Survey participants were asked to give copies to their male colleagues to create a comparison group. About 25% of the 800 responses were from men. The responses were split about 50/50 between AWG and AGU members. The Education and Human Resources Committee will have the results from the survey presented at their next meeting in Cincinnati, May 15.

The report on the Committee's special session on Twin Career Couples is also published in this issue.

This week's Forum item on child care at national meetings arose from a committee discussion of present and future activities. They had sent a questionnaire to a select group of AGU members for their opinion on job center, special seminars at national meetings, careers materials, minority activities, and employment services. The Committee will use this data for future planning.

The Committee is particularly concerned about defining ways that AGU can contribute to support of good science education in secondary and high schools in the nation. A general consensus was that working through existing organizations such as the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) might give the Committee the best idea of where and how to proceed. The Committee is sponsoring an exhibit booth at the annual meeting of NSTA in Boston in April. They will distribute the careers booklets that AGU has available and talk to science teachers about their needs and aspirations.

## Committee on International Participation

One of the Committee's primary concerns is the advancement of geophysics in Latin

America. The committee discussed several proposals including a scholarship for Latin American graduate students to study in the United States, travel grants to enable Latin American members to attend AGU meetings, support for sabbatical leave in the United States for Latin American professors, and support for symposia (including Chapman Conference) to be held in Latin America. The relative merits and cost effectiveness of these and other various proposals were debated.

The CIP reviewed AGU activities at the IUGG General Assembly in Hamburg in August, and there was a general good feeling about them. The activities included distributing free copies of the U.S. National Committee Report to the IUGG; the AGU exhibit booth; a CIP table for interchange with non-members; USNG reception for Chief Delegates; an AGU reception for members outside North America; and numerous meetings between the AGU staff and various editors, authors, and society officers.

The CIP has requested AGU officers to be alert for such opportunities at other international meetings and would welcome suggestions regarding AGU involvement in appropriate meetings and the kinds of activities that should be carried out.

The Committee has long recognized that non-U.S. members have difficulty transmitting payments for dues and journals. They have decided to send a questionnaire to all foreign members to try to focus on the most critical problem areas and find out just how big the problem is. Once the dimensions are known, they will know better how to attack the problems. It was pointed out that in the meantime, AGU is encouraging the use of credit cards to help alleviate the problem.

There are four GRL editors outside the United States that are now receiving and accepting papers. The European Geophysical Society (EGS) continues its cosponsorship of *Tectonics* and is promoting the journal in Europe. This is an important activity for them because they receive a royalty on library subscriptions in Europe. The journal is doing well.

The problem of page charges in the primary journals has been of concern to some non-U.S. authors. It is clear that some good papers are being lost. The author-produced option relieves some of the pressure, but is not the answer for all. The other alternative is the non-page-charge journals like *Tectonics*. A system of automatically waiving page charges for non-U.S. authors would be perceived as unfair in U.S. authors. It was reported to the CIP that the Publications Committee questions whether AGU should continue to publish the U.S. National Report to IUGG.

The Committee has requested that AGU continue to handle block travel grants for IUGG and its associated principal meetings. Proposals will be made to National Science Foundation (NSF) for block travel funds for the following meetings:

1. IASPEI Regional Assembly, Hyderabad, India, October 31-November 1, 1984.

2. IAGA, Prague, Czechoslovakia, August 1985.

3. IASPEI 23rd General Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, August 19-30, 1985.

4. IAGU, Scientific Assembly, Catania, Italy, September 1985.

5. International Volcanological Congress sponsored by IAVCEI and the Royal Society of New Zealand, Auckland-Hamilton-Rotorua, New Zealand, February 1-9, 1986.

6. IAGS 2nd Scientific Assembly, Budapest, Hungary, 1986.

The Committee approved participation on an experimental basis in the Institute of International Education's Short Term Enrichment Program. If AGU's application is approved, this would mean that funds up to \$250 per person would be available to foreign graduate students (in geophysics and related areas) studying in the United States and not funded by the U.S. government to attend AGU meetings.

## Meetings Committee

The Committee's plan for permanently locating the Spring Meeting in the Baltimore/Washington area and the Fall Meeting in San Francisco was accepted by Council at the 1983 Fall Meeting. The 1984 Fall Meeting will be at the Civic Auditorium so as to bring all the sessions into one facility. Housing will be at the Cathedral Hill Hotel (Jack Tar), the Holiday Inn-Golden Gateway, the San Francisco.

AGU (cont. on p. 138)

## Hiring, Firing, and Job Security

AGU Spring Meeting  
Tuesday, May 15  
5:15 - 7:15 P.M.  
Ivory B Room • The Clarion

This panel discussion of current practices in employment of geophysicists in a wide range of areas (academia, industry and government) will include who gets hired, how to stay hired and possibilities of firing, as seen from the employer's point of view. Laude Brown, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Geoscience, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, will moderate the discussion.

This program has been arranged by the AGU Education and Human Resources Committee. Reservations will be available.

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# Canada

The University of California encourages applications from qualified women and minorities.

It is advisable that participants apply to a U.S. Consular Office for a visa at least 3 months before the date on which they plan to depart for the United States. (Those wishing to visit Canada or Mexico as part of their trip should request multiple re-entry visas.) If an applicant has not received his visa 1 month before the beginning of the meeting, he is requested to call to the U.S. National Committee for IUGG, c/o AGU, TWX 711-822-1950 or Telecain BVEAYER. Include the following data: name and address of each

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